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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Office for the Caribbean



CARIBBEAN COUNCIL
FOR
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COSED)

Report on visits to some CDCC member countries and examination
of issues relating to the establishment of COSED

Prepared
by
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Consultant

The views expressed in this document are those of the Consultant and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ECLA Subregional Office for the Caribbean. This document has not undergone formal editing.

III-4-004

I. CONTRACT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Following an oral request of 6 October 1982 detailed discussion with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and extensive background reading I was contracted on 25 October by United Nations ECLA Office for the Caribbean with the following terms of reference:

To prepare a report elaborating on the study on the need for a Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development for co-ordinating social science research in the region together with its utilization in development planning, the eventual spin-offs of the proposed institutions, the preparedness of concerned researchers and policy-makers to participate in the venture, a model of organizational structure and draft statutes for its functions and rules of procedures.

2. It was agreed that, within the constraints of time and finance, visits would be made to the following countries for the purpose of holding consultations:

Saint Lucia/Jamaica

Barbados/Grenada

Suriname/Guyana

Dominican Republic/Haiti

The assignment was to have been completed by 31 January 1983. However, with the change in date of the Seventh Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation (CDCC) it was mutually agreed that the report should be available in time for discussion then.

II. TRAVEL AND CONSULTATIONS

3. The consultant is normally resident in Trinidad and held frequent consultations with the staff of the ECLA Office in Port of Spain. It was also deemed desirable to hold face to face discussions with a cross section of persons responsible for social and economic affairs and regional co-operation in CDCC member countries and in regional bodies and research institutions, particularly the universities. The following countries were visited:

Jamaica	28-30 October
Barbados	2-3 November
Saint Lucia	27 October and 4 November
Grenada	5-6 November
Guyana	21-24 November
Suriname	25-28 November
Dominican Republic	8-9 December
Haiti	10-11 December

4. Interviews were conducted with the following persons in the countries named:

(a) Jamaica

Mr. Ambrose Da Costa - National Planning Agency
Mr. John Pickersgill - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dr. E. Greene - Ag. Director, Institute of Social and
Economic Research, University of the
West Indies
Prof. G.E. Mills - Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of the West Indies
Dr. F.R. Augier - Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of
the West Indies
Prof. G.E. Beckford - Department of Economics, Univer-
sity of the West Indies
Dr. Huntley Manhertz - Data Resource Systems International
Ltd.
Dr. Marshall Hall - Formerly Professor of Management Studies,
University of the West Indies and now in the
private sector.

(b) Barbados

Mr. B. Babb - Ministry of External Affairs
Ms. S. Welch - Ministry of External Affairs
Mr. R. Scotland - Caribbean Development Bank
Ms. I. Marshall - Caribbean Development Bank
Ms. J. Massiah - Institute of Social and Economic Research,
University of the West Indies
Dr. P. Emmanuel - Institute of Social and Economic Research,
University of the West Indies

Dr. N. Duncan - Vice-Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of the West Indies.

(c) Saint Lucia

Mr. A. Compton (27 October) - Organization of Eastern
Caribbean States

Dr. V. Lewis (4 November) - Director-General, Organ-
ization of Eastern Caribbean States

Mr. D. Venner - Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

(d) Grenada

Mr. B. Coard - Minister of Finance, Planning and Develop-
ment (courtesy call)

Mr. L. Ramdhanny - Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Plan-
ning and Development and current 1982
CDCC Chairman (courtesy call)

Mr. T. Moore - Ag. Head, Planning Unit.

Mr. C. Kirton - Planning Unit

Mr. W. Davis - Ministry of External Affairs.

(e) Guyana

Mr. R. Lucas - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. N. Gravesande - Ministry of Economic Planning

Mr. P. Alexander - CARICOM Secretariat

Mr. S. Lalta - CARICOM Secretariat

Prof. R. James - Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Guyana

Prof. C.Y. Thomas - Director, Institute of Development
Studies, University of Guyana

(f) Suriname

Ms. Monique Fernandez - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Stuart Tjon-a-Toe - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Joan Antonius - Planning Bureau

Mr. Ruben Wesenhagen - Planning Bureau

Dr. Jack Menke - Director, Institute of Economic and
Social Research

Dr. P. Mahango - Head, Department of Economics,
University of Suriname

Dr. Wilfred Rosevel - Head, Department of Sociology,
University of Suriname

(g) Dominican Republic

Mr. Hugo Tajeda - Secretaria de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores
Ms. Milagros Puello - Secretaria de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores
Mr. Daniel Suazo - Secretaria de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores
Mr. Mariano Alcántara - Oficina Nacional de Planificación
Mr. Giovanni Brito - Oficina Nacional de Planificación
Dr. Ruben Silié Valdez - Director, Departamento de Sociología, Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo

(h) Haiti

Mr. Michel Bonnet - Institut de Statistique et Information
Mr. Théophile Roche - Directeur de la Direction de Programmation Economique et Sociale, Secrétairerie d'Etat du Plan
Mr. Danel Georges - Bureau du Budget et Directeur, Institut Haitien de Developpement Economique et Social
Mr. J.B. Emmanuel Francius Julien - Secrétaire Général de l'Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches Africaines d'Haiti

(i) Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Basil Ince - Minister of External Affairs (courtesy call)
Mr. L. Cumberbatch - Ministry of External Affairs
Mr. A.T. Harewood - Ministry of Finance, Planning and Development
Prof. L.E.S. Braithwaite - Principal, University of the West Indies
Dr. A. Bryan - Director, Institute of International Relations University of the West Indies
Mr. J. Harewood - Director, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies
Mr. G. Draper - Vice-Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies
Prof. C. Bourne - Department of Economics, University of the West Indies
Dr. B. Brereton - Secretary, Association of Caribbean Historians

5. The face to face interviews served as a vehicle for rapid communications and feedback between the consultant and persons in CDCC member countries on the proposed Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development (COSED). While not the sole determinant, the exchange of views between the consultant and a cross section of interested persons on the merits/demerits of COSED, alternative structural models, critical areas of its work programme and the possible hurdles in the way of its establishment was of tremendous influence in the formation of a judgment on the issue. Such an exchange served to clarify issues, sharpen thinking and open new vistas on themes thought settled.

III. ORIGIN OF THE COSED IDEA

6. Consistent with the Constituent Declaration and Work Programme of the CDCC (E/CEPAL/1022 and E/CEPAL/CDCC/8/Rev.1) and based on a Joint ECLA/UNESCO Work Programme (E/CEPAL/CDCC/19) adopted at the Second Session of the CDCC held in Santo Domingo (16-22 March 1978) the institutional infrastructure for co-operation among Caribbean countries was agreed to include a Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development (COSED). It was envisaged that in time the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology would jointly constitute a Caribbean Academy of Sciences and Technology.

7. It was the view that COSED would have responsibility for the examination of concrete problems raised in the CDCC work programme and in a general way would advise governments, in the words of the Joint ECLA/UNESCO Programme on

- (a) the definition and harmonization of strategies for economic and social development;
- (b) comparative studies of socio-economic realities prior to decision-making;
- (c) the elaboration of a methodology for social and economic research adapted to the necessities of the subregion;
- (d) the definition of common statistical indicators;

- (e) the harmonization of national legislations related to the social and economic orders; and
- (f) the definition of a Caribbean standpoint in the construction of a new international order.

8. The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology came into existence in April 1980. The mandate for the establishment of COSED has been reaffirmed at subsequent sessions for CDCC and it is the purpose of the current initiative to take the proposal to full implementation.

IV. THE CASE FOR COSED

9. The distinguishing feature of the many initiatives at co-operation among subregional Caribbean countries is that while to date they have not borne fruit in the way envisaged or at the rate anticipated still the commitment to co-operation has neither been challenged nor abandoned. Centrifugal tendencies, deriving largely from European origins, are gradually giving way to co-operative ventures on a wider front as more Caribbean states attain political independence. Interestingly as Europe itself moves rapidly towards a functional United States of Europe the concept of a Union of Caribbean States can be expected to gather momentum. It is in this light that the CDCC initiative of 1975 must be viewed as positive in the extreme.

10. The case for COSED derives from perceptions of this historical inevitability rather than from such less compelling bases as the moral goodness of co-operative endeavour or self-evident premises as the strength of the comparative method in research, economy in the use of financial and human resources or the non-duplication of effort. The small size of individual Caribbean states, manageable and defensible in a certain state of the military and industrial arts - and for that reason historically both economically viable and amenable to experimentation - has now been overtaken by fundamental shifts in the parameters of the world economy largely brought on by the march of technology.

11. It is usual to argue that differences in size and resource endowment, language, ideology and in patterns of social and economic organization make

regional co-operation difficult, if not impossible. As obvious as are the difficulties in co-operation caused by language barriers or ideology it can be convincingly argued that these are of a lower order of importance than are the dynamic forces of history. In the view of the consultant, Caribbean countries stand at different points on a common historical continuum impelled by the same dynamic forces. As such the Caribbean socio-economic reality escapes rational appreciation unless treated holistically. It can be the central function of COSED to pool regional experiences in time and space by collaborative research and extended dialogue and so throw light on the central problematique facing Caribbean countries.

12. Briefly sketched, Caribbean countries are insular in configuration - surrounded either by sea or by land with which there is little economic or cultural contact. They comprise completely transplanted populations and socio-economic systems with a finite time horizon less than 500 years. There is thus no indigenous culture or problem of infinite regress. The rationale for their establishment was the exploitation of their resources for supplying metropolitan markets - in turn tropical agriculture, minerals and tourism. Forms of social and economic organization were ruthlessly adapted to this latter objective and the outlook has been entirely outward. These characteristics distinguish CDCC member countries from all else.

13. Two dominant historical trends have characterized Caribbean countries. Firstly there has been a systematic tendency for their resource-based economies to decline without a concomitant shift to knowledge-based activities. Secondly there has been a tendency for a growing nationalism to express itself in increased relative independence of the international system. These trends when coupled with rapidly rising populations and an historically determined taste pattern and resource allocation have made sustained social and economic progress fall far short of expectations. Collaborative work in the social sciences defined to include history and education as well as the usual anthropology and cultural anthropology, economics and agricultural economics, management sciences, political science and sociology - can bring to the realization of CDCC member countries this central, shared problem area and lay the ground for devising solutions to these essential Caribbean problems.

V. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNTRIES VISITED

14. In the judgement of the consultant, discussions with professionals in the countries visited suggest considerable support for the proposed Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development. With one or two possible exceptions, to whom COSED seemed incapable of adding to current co-operative efforts and who seemed not to have taken cognizance of the rich variety of experience gained in the older, non-English speaking republics, the merits of collaborative efforts in the social sciences was strongly asserted. Positive opinion was about equally shared among those who saw nothing but benefits from COSED, and whose support was unambiguous, and those who were of the view that in order to be successful COSED must, in its structure and functioning, take cognizance of and resolve a number of delicate problem areas. These are briefly summarized.

15. The area of social and economic policy was an extremely sensitive one and governments would wish to be careful about the initial commitments they make to a body of unknown potentialities. Thus while COSED can enhance understanding of issues it could also impinge on perceived autonomy. For this reason the exact structure, functions and modus operandi of COSED should be agreed and tested before firm commitments could be made. There may be need to 'creep up' on the final form envisaged for COSED.

16. A number of existing co-operative organs seem not to have fulfilled their promise and any new initiative would be approached with care. The resources devoted to COSED, the commitment of participants and the qualities of leadership of the professionals involved could determine its success. A chicken and egg problem was recognizable since commitment and success often go together.

17. Finance was likely to be a problem, moreso at the present time when most Caribbean governments faced tight budgets and international agencies were experiencing budget reductions. It was the view that while firm commitments were desirable that this could in itself render participation impossible. It was, however, pointed out that resources need not be incremental and that international resources in particular may be rearranged with more favourable benefit/cost ratios.

18. Particularly at its inception care must be taken to avoid any undue dominance of the policy thrust or staffing of COSED by either a Latin or a non-Latin perspective. A balanced perspective of mutual respect and trust should be perceived as operative.

19. The work programme of COSED should be specific and action-oriented rather than general so that concrete benefits can be identified. Among areas suggested in discussion were development of region-wide data bases, socio-economic implications of the development of regional marine resources, human resource problems such as differential labour force participation rates in relation to socio-historical factors, technology, energy, the production structure including industrialization, fiscal policy for development, alternative development strategies, and low cost housing.

VI. ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS

20. While COSED seems both feasible and desirable, its success may critically depend on how it is structured. Consideration of alternative organizational models is therefore central. Should the Council be based on a formal agreement between governments or should it be a loose association of social scientists along the lines of the Association of Caribbean Historians or the mooted Working Party of Caribbean Social Scientists?

21. An intergovernmental agreement has the advantage that the work programme of the Council could be given (from the start) a focus likely to impinge on public policy, is likely to attract the requisite resources and for these reasons be of greater practical value. However, such a structure

could cause the Council to steer clear of areas of investigation prejudged for their political infeasibility thus restricting its freedom to pursue the mandate of science. Loose associations of scientists often operate with greater autonomy, and from the freer intellectual exchange can generate less inhibited ideas. But they easily become peripheral to the concerns of policy-makers, are often short of resources and frequently disregarded by decision-makers.

22. Interesting as this debate is, and in spite of the expressed preference of university-based personnel for the looser professional association, the issue is academic. The CDCC mandate seems to envisage co-operative efforts among member governments, and while there may be some room for manoeuvre it is not clear whether the full range of logical possibilities is admissible. The balance of opinion seems to be for an intergovernmental agreement which admits membership and participation by academics and researchers. A great deal will depend on the foresight and leadership which professionals of calibre from governments and universities bring to COSED as over the years concrete form is given to the skeleton of the original proposal.

VII. THE PROPOSED COSED

23. The bare bones of the proposed Council for Social and Economic Development may be sketched. Within the ambit of CDCC, intergovernmental agreement with the participation of national universities would establish the Council for Social and Economic Development. COSED will be responsible for promoting collaborative efforts in the social sciences with the objective of enhancing an understanding of the issues raised by efforts to promote social and economic betterment in the subregion. Emphasis will initially be on collaborative research and the exchange/dissemination of ideas but it is envisaged that COSED would develop policies for promoting the development of the social sciences as they relate to the generation of solutions to the region's problems.

24. A large bureaucratic structure is not envisaged and in its initial stage no complement of full-time professional staff is proposed. Initially, COSED

can be serviced from the Port of Spain Office of ECLA Secretariat, were this Office able to provide a full-time officer as was the case for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), and its work programme executed by research institutions and agencies already in existence in the region. The Council will develop a work programme, mechanisms for collaboration, assist in raising funds for its work, and may establish working groups and/or subject teams, set up commissions on particular subjects, and arrange conferences, seminars or missions.

25. The issue of membership/participation in COSED arose in a very special way. It seems that it was crucial to make a distinction between the decision-making arms of COSED and participation in its substantive work. The Plenary of COSED and its Executive Committee are open to CDCC member states and their universities. According to the traditions within CDCC decisions will be by consensus, therefore there is no distinction between full and associate membership. Taking into account the CDCC constituent documents, and in particular resolution 358(XVI), all research institutions based in territories referred to in the said resolution should participate in the substantive work of COSED.

26. The composition of the Council, its statutes and rules of procedure as well as its organizational structure are properly matters to be negotiated. However, as a basis for discussion initial drafts are proposed herewith along lines similar to those approved for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology.

DRAFT STATUTES
OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER I

Establishment

Article 1

The Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development (COSED) is an advisory body to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) established as an intergovernmental organization in close association and collaboration with the Universities and Research Institutes of the subregion.

Article 2

The Council is devoted to the advancement of the social sciences through the creation, exchange and dissemination of knowledge in these disciplines, ensuring that they contribute directly to the economic, social and cultural development of the Caribbean countries.

CHAPTER II

Objectives

Article 3

In pursuance of the principles which stimulated the creation of the CDCC as stated in its Constituent Declaration, and of Article 2 above, the objectives of the Council are:

(a) to constitute a forum for discussion, exchange of experiences and collaboration in matters related to economic and social change in the countries of the subregion;

(b) to organize and/or participate in research, training and/or teaching activities in the social sciences and to give them a subregional scope;

(c) to promote the establishment and/or strengthening of national and subregional centres dedicated to research, teaching or application of the social sciences;

(d) to stimulate the establishment and/or the strengthening of collaborative links between Caribbean institutions undertaking research, teaching and action-oriented activities in the social sciences and closer relations with other Latin-American and extraregional institutions;

(e) to participate in and organize any other activity of an academic, professional or cultural nature aimed at improving the level of knowledge on the countries of the subregion, at promoting Caribbean culture, at strengthening the subregional identity and generally at fulfilling CDCC mandates.

CHAPTER III

Membership

Article 4

The Council is composed of one representative from each government comprising the CDCC and one representative per National University and campus of the University of the West Indies.

Article 5

Council members are appointed on the basis of their scientific and academic merit. The government members should be appointed from amongst senior officials of policy-making institutions responsible for the application of social sciences to development. The university members should be chosen from amongst social scientists responsible for research and teaching policies. In the discharge of their activities within the Council, members act in the capacity of experts linked with intellectual work as applied to development.

Article 6

Council members are appointed by means of official communications to

the CDCC Secretariat emanating from CDCC member governments in the case of government representatives or from the National Universities or campuses of the University of the West Indies in the case of academic representatives. Appointments may be for an indefinite period and may be revised from time to time.

Article 7

A government, university or university campus may, if it so wishes, designate an alternate to its Council appointee.

Article 8

The Council may establish such specialized Commissions or Working Groups as it deems necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

CHAPTER IV

Officers

Article 9

The officers of the Council shall be:

The Chairman, elected annually at the end of the year's Regular Plenary Session, The Vice-Chairman, elected annually at the end of the year's Regular Plenary Session, The Honorary Treasurer, elected at Regular Plenary Session for three (3) years and eligible for re-election. In electing officers of the Council, members should be guided by the principles of geographic and institutional representation.

Article 10

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and the Executive Secretary shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Council and represent it between the Regular Plenary Sessions provided for in Article 20.

Article 11

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice between Regular Plenary Sessions to review the Council's activities and to consider the draft Annual Report, the Agenda and the working documents of the next Regular Plenary Session.

Article 12

The Executive Committee shall be competent to act in the name of the Council in any matter, the urgency of which would not permit it to be submitted in sufficient time for consideration of the Council, and it shall report such action to the Council as soon as possible for ratification, informing it of the circumstances and implications.

Article 13

The Vice-Chairman and the Honorary Treasurer, in that order, shall replace the Chairman in all his duties if the latter should be absent from the region or otherwise impaired in the exercise of his duties.

Article 14

Meetings of the Executive Committee are convened by the Executive Secretary. In the event that any member of the Executive Committee cannot attend, a Council member will be co-opted by the Executive Secretary to replace him.

CHAPTER V

Secretariat

Article 15

The Council shall establish an Executive Secretariat staffed by paid full-time personnel as might be authorized by succeeding Regular Plenary Sessions. The Secretariat shall be headed by a duly qualified Executive Secretary, and shall be responsible to the Council. The Executive Secre-

tary shall be the Secretary of the Council and its committees.

Article 16

The Secretariat shall administer the affairs of the Council and shall be responsible for:

(a) the day-to-day management of technical, financial and administrative matters of the Council;

(b) the organization and co-ordination of research programmes agreed on by the Council;

(c) the organization and co-ordination of the activities of the Commissions and Working Groups mentioned in Article 19;

(d) the relations of the Council with international, governmental and non-governmental organizations as approved by Council;

(e) the technical organization of all meetings, seminars and events carried out under the auspices of the Council;

(f) the preparation of publications, reports, studies and other types of informative documents of a scientific - technical nature;

(g) with the prior approval of the Council the execution of action designed to obtain financial resources from sources other than those which normally support the Council and especially agencies of the United Nations, and international funding agencies.

(h) maintaining the Council's accounts and preparing, for the approval of the Honorary Treasurer, the Annual Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure;

(i) preparing the draft Annual Report and draft Annual Work Programme and Budget of the Council;

(j) such other activity that promotes the work of the Council.

CHAPTER VI

Operational Mechanisms

Article 17

To further the attainment of its objectives, the Council may:

- (a) institutionalize its operations and draw up an Annual Report and Annual Programme and Budget;
- (b) conclude appropriate agreements with governments of CDCC member countries;
- (c) conclude agreements with or establish close working relations with interested Caribbean regional bodies, universities, research institutes and professional associations and societies;
- (d) make arrangements for co-operation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, other entities of the United Nations system, and any other national or international organizations;
- (e) co-operate closely with CDCC subsidiary bodies and in particular the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology;
- (f) make regulations for the conduct of its business;
- (g) institute such other mechanisms as may be consistent with its aims and objectives.

Article 18

In its Work Programme, the Council may undertake activities which:

- (a) seek to create a habit of inter-professional collaboration between research centres and government agencies in member countries of CDCC;
- (b) encourage the creation of a tradition of constructive dialogue between the academic communities and governmental decision-making systems;
- (c) foster the improvement and creation of post-graduate programmes and high level training courses designed to enhance the competence of regional personnel;

(d) enhance the utilization of regional scientific personnel, create conditions for stemming the 'brain drain', and promote the repatriation of regional social scientists resident abroad;

(e) stimulate the regional character of research efforts and encourage comparative studies of the socio-economic reality of the countries of the subregion;

(f) further the aims and objectives of the CDCC.

Article 19

In the implementation of its functions the Council may create and work through Commissions, Working Groups, research teams, missions or support the work of institutions or individuals working in the region. Commissions and Working Groups are specialized teams in sectoral research organized at Caribbean level. They constitute the specific forms of collaboration among Caribbean researchers and comprise members drawn from government organizations, research centres and institutes, the universities and voluntary groups. Commissions are permanent organizations of research and discussion with continuing memberships, headed by a Co-ordinator appointed by the Council and with financial resources placed at their disposal by the Council. Working Groups are ad hoc organizations set up for a specific task and may develop into Commissions. Commissions and Working Groups may be called upon from time to time to render advisory services on problems confronting CDCC member countries based on its expert knowledge of the subject area.

CHAPTER VIII

Meetings

Article 20

The Council shall meet in Regular Plenary Session once a year in a different CDCC member country and the Agenda of such meetings shall include inter alia: consideration and approval of the Council's accounts for the previous year; the Council's draft Annual Report, Work Programme and Budget as prepared by the Executive Secretary for the succeeding year.

Article 21

The Council's Annual Report and approved Work Programme and Budget shall be transmitted to the CDCC.

Article 22

At the request of the Chairman, or at least half plus one of its members, the Council may meet in Extraordinary Plenary Session.

Article 23

Regular or Extraordinary Plenary Sessions shall be convened and organized by the Council's Secretariat. Such meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman or the Honorary Treasurer, according to their availability and in that order. Regular Plenary Sessions must be convened with three months prior notice and Extraordinary Plenary Sessions with six weeks notice, stating the Agenda in each case.

Article 24

The First Plenary Session shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and shall conclude with election of the Council's regular officers as provided for in Article 9.

Article 25

Each Commission, Working Group or ad hoc committee shall be chaired by its designated Co-ordinator or, in his absence, by one of its members designated by it.

Article 26

Appropriate regional and international governmental or non-governmental organizations with which the Council has entered into formal working relations may be invited by the Secretariat, with the Executive Committee's prior approval, to designate observers to the meetings of the Council, at Plenary Sessions.

Article 27

The Executive Committee shall decide on official representation of the Council at appropriate conferences, meetings or other events related to its aims and work and in which the Council is officially invited to participate. The Executive Committee shall report on its action in this regard, to the Council, in Plenary Session.

Article 28

A quorum shall be constituted by a half plus one of Council members. Decisions of the Council shall normally emerge by consensus. However, where the need arises to take a vote, a simple majority of members voting in their individual capacities shall be the basis. Proposals for modification of the statutes must be approved at Regular Plenary Sessions by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

CHAPTER IX

Finances

Article 29

(i) The finances of the Council shall consist of:

- (a) resources from the CDCC;
- (b) contributions from participating governments;
- (c) resources channelled through organizations of the United Nations system;
- (d) resources from other international public and private sources.

(ii) The Council may establish a Special Fund for Regional Co-operation in Social and Economic Research with resources coming from the international community to be applied to intergovernmental projects of a subregional character, or to programmes of research and training in the universities. Guidelines for the operation of the Special Fund must be laid down by the Council.

Article 30

The Council shall keep proper books of accounts and prepare an Annual Balance Sheet, properly audited. Funds received and disbursed under the Special Fund referred to at Article 29 (ii) shall be presented in a separate account.

Article 31

The Council's financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

CHAPTER X

Final Provisions

Article 32

Until such time as the Council is in a position to establish its own Executive Secretariat as provided in Article 15, the CDCC Secretariat shall assist in provision of Secretariat services. The requirement in Article 15 that the Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Council and its committees and in Article 14 with respect to meetings of the Executive Committee shall not apply until the appointment of the Executive Secretary.

Article 33

The cases and problems not foreseen in these statutes will be resolved:

- (a) in the spirit of collaboration which informed the constitution of the Council;
- (b) as established by the constitutive documents of the CDCC.

Functional Organization of COSED



